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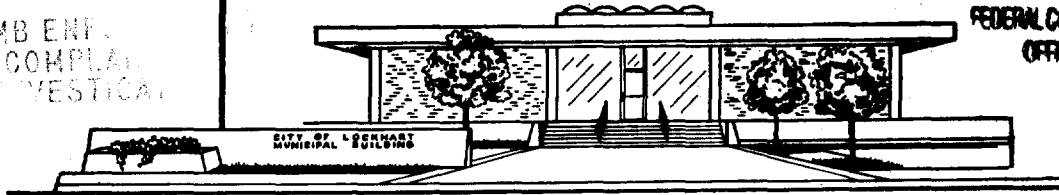
CITY OF LOCKHART

LOCKHART, TEXAS 78644

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MMB ENR.
COMPLAIN
INVESTIG.FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

92-266

P.O. Box 239

Telephone Area Code 512 398-3461

308 West San Antonio

December 17, 1992

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Mr. Alfred C. Sikes, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAR 22 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Sikes:

Lockhart, Texas is a thriving community of roughly 10,000 persons, located just 20 minutes southeast of the State Capital, Austin.

On behalf of the citizens and Cable TV subscribers of Lockhart, I am writing to denounce the latest wave of rate increases imposed by TCI Cablevision of Texas, Inc.

In a recent letter, TCI announced its intent to raise rates effective January 1, 1993. Monthly basic rates will go from \$16.65 to \$17.25, expanded basic from \$2.40 to \$2.90, HBO from \$11.60 to \$12.05, and a so called "administrative fee" from \$2.00 to \$3.00. These are increases of 3.6%, 20.8%, 3.7% and 50% respectfully. That equates to a combined 10% overall increase.

To make matters worse, this is the third increase by TCI this year alone. TCI has raised its rates a minimum of 5% every year, for as long as anyone here can remember. One local subscriber calculated his increases to be 52% since December, 1989.

In a word, these rate increases are unconscionable. When the gas company wants to raise its rates, it must file with the Texas Railroad Commission. Cities can suspend those rates for ninety (90) days to allow negotiation and input from the community. Likewise, when phone companies and electric providers raise their rates, they must first file with the Public Utilities Commission. Insurance companies must file with the State Board of Insurance. Local citizens can even appeal municipal water and sewer rate increases to the Texas Water Commission. Where, however, can communities turn to for relief against the CATV monopolies?

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Mr. Alfred C. Sikes
December 17, 1992
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There is no doubt that TCI and other operators are taking advantage of the lull before April to impose alarming and unreasonable increases. I call upon your agency, the FCC, to establish rules and procedures in the spirit of the Cable Act of 1992.

One most important feature would be a rollback provision on excessive increases while FCC worked on the rules. It should cover all forms of increases, not just basic service. The rules should also put the burden on the company to show why future increases are justified, rather than requiring cities to prove why they are unreasonable.

Thank you very much for your time and the opportunity to share our concerns with you. We look forward to the publication of the new rules on CATV rates this spring. Regulatory control over cable operators is long overdue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lew D. White ms".

Lew D. White, D.D.S.
Mayor Pro-Tem
for the Mayor and City Council

LDW/glb

cc: Honorable Lloyd Bentson, U. S. Senator
Honorable Phil Gramm, U. S. Senator
Honorable Greg Laughlin, U. S. Congressman
Honorable J. J. "Jake" Pickle, U. S. Congressman
Scott Hiegel, Vice-President, TCI
Randy Grimes, Area Manager, TCI



LINCOLN COUNTY

115 WEST MAIN STREET
THIRD FLOOR CITIZENS CENTER
LINCOLNTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28092
704/732-9000

93020028

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JAN 24 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 14, 1992

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MAR 22 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

92-266

J. J. Freeman, Director
Federal Communications Commission
Fields Operation Bureau
Norfolk Office
FCC Building
1200 Communications Circle
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Gentlemen:

At the December 7, 1992, meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, I was requested to write you to let you know of our and the community's concern about the constant rate increases and the quality of service of Cencom Cable Television Co., 1804-J Colonial Village, Lincolnton, NC 28092, Telephone (704) 735-9065. This company has 9,000 customers in Lincoln County and is the only cable television company that serves our citizens.

While Cencom does not have an exclusive franchise, it is the only company that provides cable for our county. Effective January 1, 1993, the monthly rate for the basic 33-channel service will increase from \$23.95 to \$25.95. This is more than is paid by customers in surrounding areas. There is the feeling that these rates cannot be justified. And since there is no authority for local regulation, our Board felt we should inform you as you are in the process of writing rules for the new federal law.

Thank you for your consideration and any information you can share with